

## A+ Essentials™: A Set of Commitments

<p><b>Arts</b></p> <p>In A+ Schools the arts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>* taught daily</b></li> <li><b>*inclusive of drama, dance, music, visual art and writing</b></li> <li><b>*integrated</b></li> <li><b>*valued as essential to learning</b></li> <li><b>*included in planning</b></li> <li><b>*practiced</b></li> <li><b>*a part of personal experience</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Curriculum</b></p> <p>In A+ Schools curriculum is addressed through the use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>*mapping that reflects alignment</b></li> <li><b>*thematic webbing</b></li> <li><b>*development of essential questions</b></li> <li><b>*creation and use of interdisciplinary thematic units</b></li> <li><b>*cross-curricular integration</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Experiential Learning</b></p> <p>In A+ Schools experiential learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>*is grounded in arts-based instruction</b></li> <li><b>*is a creative process</b></li> <li><b>*acknowledges entry points</b></li> <li><b>*includes differentiated instruction</b></li> <li><b>*provides multi-faceted assessment opportunities</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Multiple Intelligences</b></p> <p>In A+ Schools multiple learning pathways are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>*used within planning &amp; assessment</b></li> <li><b>*understood by students and parents</b></li> <li><b>*studied, and new research is explored by teachers</b></li> <li><b>*creating balanced learning opportunities</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Enriched Assessment</b></p> <p>In A+ Schools enriched assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>*is on-going</b></li> <li><b>*is designed for learning</b></li> <li><b>*is used as documentation</b></li> <li><b>*is a reflective practice</b></li> <li><b>*helps meet school system requirements</b></li> <li><b>*is used to self -assess by teachers and students</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Collaboration</b></p> <p>In A+ Schools collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>*is intentional</b></li> <li><b>*occurs within &amp; outside of school</b></li> <li><b>*occurs during planning time: classroom teachers with arts teachers</b></li> <li><b>*occurs with teachers, students, families, the community, &amp; local businesses</b></li> <li><b>*includes broad-based leadership</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Infrastructure</b></p> <p>In A+ Schools infrastructure supports the philosophy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>*addressing logistics such as schedules that support planning time</b></li> <li><b>*providing appropriate space for the arts</b></li> <li><b>*continually developing faculty commitment</b></li> <li><b>*creating a shared vision</b></li> <li><b>*providing related professional development</b></li> <li><b>*continual team building</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Climate</b></p> <p>In A+ Schools climate improves because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>*teachers can manage the arts in their classrooms</b></li> <li><b>*stress is reduced</b></li> <li><b>*teachers are treated as professionals</b></li> <li><b>*morale improves</b></li> <li><b>*excitement about the program grows</b></li> <li><b>*A+ whole school reform is invigorating</b></li> </ul>

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